

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

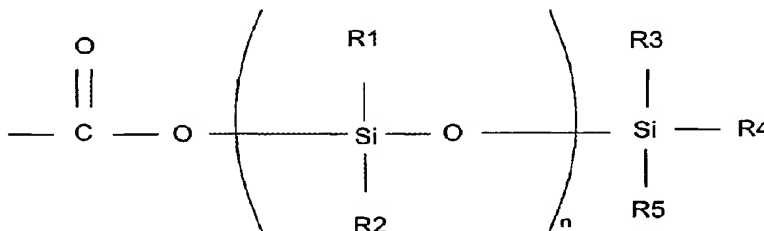
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Silyl~~ A silyl ester copolymer solution ~~having a solids content of at least 55 weight percent and a viscosity of less than 20 poise at 25°C,~~ comprising a silyl ester copolymer having a weight-average molecular weight between 1,500 and 20,000 wherein the silyl ester copolymer solution has a solids content of at least 55 weight percent and a viscosity of less than 20 poise at 25°C.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Silyl~~ The silyl ester copolymer solution according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the solids content of the solution is not more than 80 weight per cent.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Silyl~~ The silyl ester copolymer solution according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it~~ wherein the silyl ester copolymer solution comprises a silyl ester copolymer having a weight-average molecular weight of less than 20,000, a polydispersity of less than 3.0, a glass transition temperature below 90°C, with less than 70 weight per cent of said silyl ester copolymer consisting of side chains having a silyl ester functionality.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Silyl~~ The silyl ester copolymer solution according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the silyl ester copolymer is a copolymer comprising at least one side chain bearing at least one terminal group of the formula:



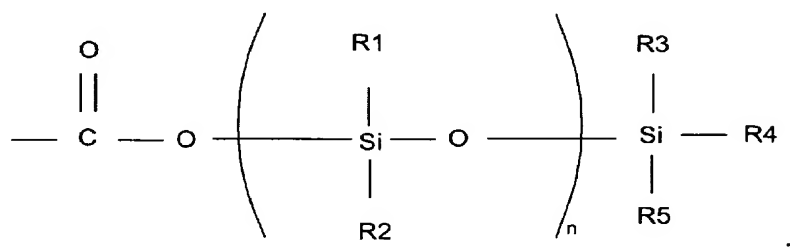
wherein n is 0 or an integer of 1 to 50, and R1, R2, R3, R4, and R5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₂₀-alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted aryloxy.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Silyl~~ The silyl ester copolymer solution according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein n = 0 and R3, R4, and R5 are the same or different, ~~represent~~ are methyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, or phenyl.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Antifouling~~ An antifouling coating composition ~~having a VOC below 400 grams per liter and a viscosity of less than 20 poise at 25°C,~~ comprising a silyl ester copolymer and an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms, wherein the composition has a VOC below 400 grams per liter and a viscosity of less than 20 poise at 25°C.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Antifouling~~ The antifouling coating composition according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the silyl ester copolymer is a silyl ester copolymer having a weight-average molecular weight less of than 20,000, a polydispersity of less than 3.0, a glass transition temperature below 90°C, with less than 70 weight per cent of said silyl ester copolymer consisting of side chains having a silyl ester functionality.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Antifouling~~ The antifouling coating composition according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the silyl ester copolymer is a copolymer comprising at least one side chain bearing at least one terminal group of the formula:



wherein n is 0 or an integer of 1 to 50, and R1, R2, R3, R4, and R5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₂₀-alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted aryloxy.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Antifouling~~ The antifouling coating composition according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein n = 0, ~~and~~ and R3, R4, and R5 are the same or different, ~~and represent~~ are methyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, or phenyl.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Antifouling~~ The antifouling coating composition according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the composition further comprises one or more polymers or resins selected from the group consisting of compounds which are free of triorganosilyl ester groups and triorganotin groups, but are reactive in seawater, and materials which are slightly soluble or water-sensitive in seawater, and materials which are insoluble in seawater.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Antifouling~~ The antifouling coating composition according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the composition comprises a rosin material as the material that is slightly soluble or water-sensitive in seawater.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Substrate~~ A substrate or structure coated with ~~an~~ the antifouling coating composition according to claim 6.